

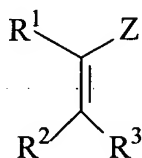
(i) a compound producing imagewise a chemical species that can form development initiation points on and in the vicinity of the non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid (except for hydrazine derivatives);

(ii) a compound that provides increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 200-5000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver (except for hydrazine derivatives);

(iii) a compound that provides increase of covering power to a level of 120-1000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver (except for hydrazine derivatives);

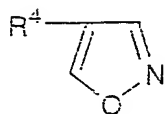
(iv) a compound represented by any one of the following formulas (1) to (3):

Formula (1)



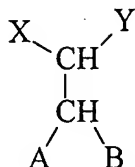
wherein,  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z represents an electron-withdrawing group, and  $\text{R}^1$  and Z,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$ , or  $\text{R}^3$  and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,

Formula (2)



wherein,  $R^4$  represents a substituent,

Formula (3)



wherein, X and Y each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, A and B each independently represents an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, an alkylamino group, an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an anilino group, a heterocyclyloxy group, a heterocyclylthio group or a heterocyclylamino group, and X and Y or A and B may be combined with each other to form a ring structure.